



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AND A PRODUCTION OF MYSKOKE MEDIA

MCN agrees to \$11.5 million tobacco compact with state

Deal also settles lawsuit between tribe and state in Tulsa District Court

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant
OKLAHOMA CITY — A new tobacco compact is in place between State of Oklahoma and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Signed on Aug. 24, the new agreement settles a years long dispute between the two governments, with the tribe paying \$11.5 million and the state dismissing pending legal action against the tribe in the Tulsa County District Court.

In signing the compact, Gov. Mary Fallin called the MCN a “valuable partner” and cited its economic impact on the state, “We are happy to sign a compact today that will further strengthen our partnership.

In addition to governing the payment of taxes on tobacco products sold at Creek Nation lands, the compact also settles a lawsuit filed by the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office.

“I appreciate the leadership of Chief Tiger and officials of the Creek Nation for their spirit and cooperation during the negotiation of this compact.”



MNN/Sterling Cosper
Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt (left), Gov. Mary Fallin (center) and Principal Chief George Tiger (right) signed documents on a \$11.5 million tobacco compact between the state and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at the state capitol Aug. 24 in Oklahoma City.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger stated that the compact was historic and was far too long overdue. The compact would be beneficial to all Oklahomans, native or not, he said, “We’re looking forward to more relationships, not only the state of Oklahoma but in communities we share. After all, we’re Oklahomans and we know that what we do, as tribal nations, is good for the state of Oklahoma

as well.” Tiger also thanked the MCN National Council for its action in unanimously approving the compact in an emergency session Aug. 23, with a vote of 15-0. Tiger added that pricing at Creek smoke shops would reflect other market prices, “I believe it’s important that we had this signed today because it allows for our smoke shops to be able to be com-

petitive. It’s a good thing.” The compact governs the payment of taxes to the state on the retail sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products sold on Creek land. The Oklahoma tax rate on cigarettes is \$10.30 on a 10-pack carton. Under the agreement, Oklahoma will receive 50 percent of that tax rate from retail sales by the MCN.

SEE COMPACT - 2

’12 sees 12 NAJA awards for Myskoke Media

Media Release
Myskoke Media Staff
LAS VEGAS — Members of Myskoke Media collected 12 awards at the 2012 Native American Journalists Association Media Awards as part of the annual conference Aug. 1-4 in Las Vegas.

Individual staff members received awards for their efforts in print and video. Jason Salsman, host of “Native News Today,” won first place for best television news story. Salsman said the award provides more recognition for issues in Indian Country through NNT.

“The award is another platform for us to share what we’re doing with other people. It’s nice to be recognized because it’s a chance to share what we’re trying to do with the show itself, with a lot of other people who wouldn’t have access to it otherwise,” he said.



Myskoke Media/Tyler Roberts
Members of Myskoke Media including Muscogee Nation News and Native News Today won 12 awards from the Native American Journalists Association.

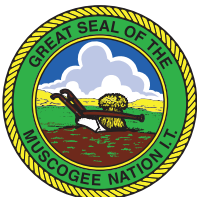
The Muscogee Nation News placed in several categories in Division IV and won second place for best layout and won second place for best layout and general excellence. Gary Fife won four awards including third place for best feature photo, first place for best column, second place for best news story

and second place for best television news story. Darren DeLaune won two awards including first and second place for best sports story. Gerald Wofford won two awards including first place for best feature story and first place for best feature

photo. Former MNN Reporter Lee Longhorn won first place for best news story. MNN Editor Rebecca Landsberry said these awards challenge the editorial staff to continue improving their craft. “I’m so proud of the staff we have here and the publication that we put out. There are always improvements to make but we’ll always strive to be the best. From layout and design to coverage, all these elements come together twice a month and we hope people enjoy the work we do. Everyone chips in to make the Muscogee Nation News an award-winning publication year after year and I couldn’t be happier,” she said. Myskoke Media Manager Christina Good Voice said the awards are a great indicator of what the staff is capable of.

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SEPT. 1, 2012
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“OTOWOSKUCE”
LITTLE CHESTNUT
MONTH



Myskoke Hall of Fame nominations due Sept. 15

Media Release
MCN Tourism & Recreation
TULSA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation will host the inaugural MYSKOKE Hall of Fame Induction Gala Oct. 11 at the River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla., from 6 - 9 p.m.

The MYSKOKE Hall of Fame replaces the Living Legends ceremony that was conducted during the annual festival and requires that nominated individuals must have brought recognition to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or made outstanding contributions to the quality of life and development. The inductee’s achievements may be local, national or international in scope.

Individuals inducted to the MYSKOKE Hall of Fame will be honored for their achievements in any of the following:

1. Arts - for endeavors which enhance and support artistic/cultural life and well-being;
2. Business/ Professional - for entrepreneurial activity, or pursuit of a specific profession and advancement of that profession,

SEE FAME - 3



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NAJA

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“The Muscogee Nation News and “Native News Today” news teams work hard every day to cover events and news for the citizens of the Muscogee Nation,” Good Voice said. “With the addition of a few new staff members this year, we’ve set a goal to sweep the NAJA awards in our division next year as we continue to increase our presence in the Nation and expand our coverage.”

The conference was part of the alliance activities during the UNITY 2012 Convention Aug. 1-4 at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. UNITY: Journalists, Inc. is a coalition of the four alliances, the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Native American Journalists Association and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

MCN Division of Health Director featured on Mvskoke Radio

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Director Seneca Smith tackles call-in questions on hour-long Mvskoke Radio

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — It was the turn of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health Services Director, Seneca Smith to field questions on the Mvskoke Radio hour long call-in show on KOKL radio, Aug. 15. Hosts Gerald Wofford and Gary Fife and listeners questioned Smith on a number of subjects.

Q. Give us an overview of your department.

A. We currently have six facilities. We have a facility at Okemah, we have a clinic and a hospital. We have the Wetumka facility, we have the Okmulgee facility, we have the Eufaula facility, the Coweta facility, the Sapulpa facility and we also operate seven programs. We currently have the Elderly Nutrition Program, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, the Vocational Rehab program, the Tobacco program, the Community Health Representative (CHR) program, the Caregiver program, the Behavioral Health program—all fall under the Division of Health umbrella. We make up about 650 employees at the Division of Health (DoH).

Q. How many patients does your department deal with?

A. Our user population is about 32,000 that we have come through our system within our jurisdiction. We have 10,000 that come from outside our jurisdiction.

Q. Who and what is eligible for contract care?

A. We have in-house referrals and we have outside referral. Those (outside) referrals for secondary and tertiary care that our system does not currently provide, so we have an avenue for those services to be received. The eligible parties are any eligible Native American that is currently living within our contract service delivery area and you have to be a Native American of a federally recognized tribe.

Q. Are eligible medical problems for that program ranked from a ‘life-threatening’ situation on down?

A. Yes. We only have a certain amount of money that we are allotted from the Indian Health Service (IHS), our tribal council and a third party. We only have a



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health Director Seneca Smith (pictured at left) was featured on the hour-long call-in edition of Mvskoke Radio on KOKL AM 1240 in Okmulgee.

certain amount to provide that service and we have a large population that needs that service. So, it is real important for us to establish some guidelines. If we do not establish guidelines, we could run out and have no money for anyone. There is a ranking system that we go by, but we try to take care of everyone. What happens is dependent on the money we have that week.

Q. Does the Elderly Nutrition program fall under the Health Department? How about the WIC program?

A. Both of those fall under the Division of Health.

Q. Tell us how you see the diabetes program evolve and change.

A. What we’ve done is move it around to different locations, for anyone who has not had the opportunity to attend, can do so in the future.

Q. How do you determine who is eligible for service at one of the clinics?

A. You have to be a member of a federally recognized tribe. Anyone who comes through the door, we do our best to try and take care of them and provide the best quality care possible.

Q. Is a non-native spouse or child eligible?

A. Not in our clinics.

Q. How has the implementation of the Urgent Care plan gone at the Okemah Hospital and if there are any expectations of the upcoming implementation at the Okmulgee clinic and if any changes or adjustments have been made as a result of their findings?

A. The Okemah facility, right now, due to some staffing problems, we have pushed that back to the second week of September. The Okmulgee Urgent Care facility, we hope to open up on the first of November.

Q. There were problems of communication between the staff at Okemah and upper level administrators here. Has that been corrected?

A. Yes, it’s definitely been addressed. As you indicated, the facility was built in 1948 and there’s some difficulties any time you’re trying to update a system like that. We made it through a DMV accreditation that shows the level of quality and the effort. Since we’ve updated the facility and were able to get through the DMV process. We’re now an accredited facility and the issues that were of concern before are no longer an issue. Being accredited, they make sure that you keep up with those standards. The staff down at Okemah are working very diligently to improve that system.

Q. Suicide prevention, is this a topic that’s been just been recently addressed, or has it taken on more attention in the past few years. How has the DOH dealt with this?

A. Under our Behavioral Health program this is an issue that we currently deal with on a daily basis. We’ve just taken a stronger stance in making sure that we’re providing our best care for those individuals that seek that attention. We’ve had opportunities for grants and we’re currently under a grant that’s helping us accomplish our goals and provide care for those individuals that are seeking that care.

Q. Is that assistance available at all the clinics?

A. Yes, we have the Behavioral Health program at all of our facilities. Any time there’s an issue to that effect, the individual is directed to our Behavioral Health in that specific area.

Q. One of the comments we’ve heard in the waiting rooms

has been about the waiting time. People say they’ve been waiting a long time. Perhaps, you could give us some insight there.

A. In my opinion, a two minute or three minute—that’s too long. Currently our wait time, our patient cycle, we definitely want to make better. What we’re doing the health leadership and the health administrator are working very hard to reduce those wait times, and how do we reduce those wait times. One, is being fully staffed in our medical staff, our providers. We going to have that accomplished in the second or third week of August. So, that has played a role in why our wait times have been the way they are. It’s going to be the first time in a long time that we’re going to have every position filled through the DoH. So, that’s going to help out a lot and reduce those wait times. Instead of working with two or three providers, we’re going to have five or six, depending on what location it is.

Right now, we’re a complete system. Before, there were ‘silos’, where if you checked in at one facility and you were a patient at another, you had to be switched back and forth because your patient information was at one facility. So, now we’re one facility and the patient’s medical records are throughout the system, so it makes it easier to take care of that patient instead of shipping them back to another facility.

Q. We’d like to know more about the substance abuse program and what it offers.

A. This is a very good program that we have and it is offered through each of our facilities, whether or not you come in through a referral or on your own.

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COMPACT

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The document recognizes the right of the MCN to charge additional amounts based on its own determination of tax needs and allows for a five-year term for settlement of payments.

In past years, the state and tribe had been at odds over the tobacco issue. Oklahoma law enforcement officers had intercepted shipments of tobacco to Creek warehouses. Under this compact, both sides expect to put such con-

frontations in the past.

Tiger said it was better to discuss things between the two governments, “I believe so. I think anytime we can sit across the table to be able to do things like this, a lot of things end. With the support of the National Council in authorizing me to do this, I believe it says a lot about both governmental entities, state and tribal.”

Fallin echoed those sentiments, “This is a new day, not only for the state of Oklahoma, but for the Creek Nation. We’re proud today to be able to come to an agreement on this compact and allow the tribe and the state of Oklahoma

to move forward so we can all be prosperous and move forward in better cooperation and relationships.”

Esther Gee, Chair of the Okmulgee Indian Community, says the OIC smoke shop should turn more of a profit with the compact.

“I’m pleased. We have been paying our expenses. We will be able to sell for one or two dollars cheaper. We have a good inventory. Before our competitors up the street have been able to sell cheaper,” Gee said.

Gee said, the community expects to advertise the new prices soon and take advantage of the

compact’s benefits. She had good words for the MCN legislature, “We appreciate the National Council for passing the bill on the compact.”

The 33 tribally-operated smoke shops are located in the communities of Beggs, Bristow, Checotah, Duck Creek, Eufaula, Sand Springs, Glenpool, Holdenville, Drumwright, Coweta, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Cromwell, Okemah, Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Bixby, Haskell, Sapulpa, Twin Hills, Wagoner and Wetumka.

HEALTH

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It’s something that we usually identify through the system. It’s something that a lot of people don’t want to admit, so we have to be very cautious on how we handle that.... we’re here for the patients and to make sure they’re heading in the right direction and that we get them taken care of.

Q. What about meth? It’s been called the number one problem that we have to deal with?

A. That all falls under the substance abuse and the behavioral health and we get it to our substance abuse counselor that we have located in behavioral health.

Q. Why isn’t your newsletter and all that information going out? What can we do to improve the line of communication between your division and the Creek people?

A. That has been identified and we do have Division of Health newsletter that we do submit once a month. We’re trying to get that out to all the community centers and we’re going to work hand in hand with the Public Relations Department to try and better disseminate that information out to the community.

Q. At one time about 10 or 12 years ago, they had a Health Board, someone that you could go to and for questions and answer and complaints. I have not heard anything about it. Do we have that still in operation?

A. We currently do not have a health board in place, but we do have an avenue in regards to patient concerns. We have a patient advocate

and her name is Ann Edwards. She’s been a great asset to the system. How we handle those patient concerns is that she receives them, goes through them, and she gets them to the correct person that needs to see them. We work together as a team to correct those concerns.

Q. I’d like to know about the CHR (Community Health Representative) program and how that helps Creek people as well.

A. They’re Creek citizens that understand our elders, that understand our community and those individuals in those roles can reach others that others cannot. They do an excellent job. They’re running all over, they’ll be in Tulsa, Oklahoma City. They can do that two or three times a day. We utilize them in several different ways. We use them for medication pickup, transportation and they put on a lot of health fairs for us. They do blood pressure checks and they communicate events that are going on in the health system to our community and likewise, they bring concerns back to the health system. So, we are very fortunate to have those individuals as part of our system.

Q. We’ve seen complaints on social media that money was used for redecorating administrative offices instead of repairing health facilities. Has that been the case?

A. A lot of our facilities are in need of improvement and that includes some of our administrative offices. We do have patients and others that come in to these administrative offices, so it is also important that we have good conditions like we do in the facilities. We try not to put that over our facilities. Our facilities come first—our clinics, our patients, our patient supplies. Just like our clinics we do have patients that come

in to the administrative offices and so we do like to have that presentable also.

Q. We’d like to touch on the vocational rehabilitation program too.

A. Vocational-rehab, which is located in Okemah, has been going strong for several years and we have one of the top vocational rehab programs in the nation. How that works is, we have individuals that help with job placement. There’s a medical side to it. They work hand-in-hand with us and employers to make sure that they’re able to land that individual a job.

Q. How do you deal with emergency situations? Say, someone has been in a car wreck and they have to go to a hospital in Tulsa for emergency care. Does the contract program cover that sort of thing?

A. Yes, we do have, if they’re picked up in our ambulance, depending on where they’re located and if they’re native, we do try to get them to our hospital and if we need it, send them on to one of the larger hospitals.

Q. You’ve been on the job about a year, how has the job progressed?

A. It’s been going well. We have a lot to cover. We have great employees and we have a direction that we’re trying to go. It’s very important to the staff and the Muscogee Creek citizens that we raise that bar and standard of care for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health. We definitely want to be the system of choice for the patients.

FAME

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or including the establishment and successful operation of a business;

3. Voluntary Service - for voluntary activities and dedication that benefit the immediate and global community;

4. Public Affairs - for public service in areas such as social advocacy, environmental protection, international affairs, political action or organized labor.

Nominations or selections to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame are not restricted to these fields and individuals may be inducted for their accomplishments in more than one area.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

At the beginning of each year a campaign is commenced to solicit nominations to the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame. Through a campaign conducted through local media and mailings to Muscogee (Creek) Nation communities, nominations are requested from any member of the Muscogee Nation.

Upon receipt of all nominations by the deadline of Sept. 15, all nominations are reviewed to ensure there is enough background information on the attached forms to include them in the list of nominations for the Selection Committee to consider. Nominators are also allowed to show up in person or with a

delegation to state their case in front of the Selection Committee as to why their nominee is deserving of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame Award.

The Selection Committee then chooses one individual. The Directors of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame have agreed that there will be one award winner from each category. There will be four inductees each year. When all nominations for the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame have been received and reviewed for proper documentation, they are distributed to the voting members. Subsequently a meeting is held to review all nominations and to develop a short list of nominees.

The inductee will receive a MVSKOKE Hall of Fame plaque and a portrait of them placed in the tribal complex.

Nominees who are not inducted but are selected as the second or third choices, by voting members of the MVSKOKE Hall of Fame are automatically nominated for the following year.

The event is black tie and traditional clothing gala. Sponsorship opportunities are available for this occasion.

For more information, please call 918-732-7992, or email tourism@muscogeenation-nsn.gov or visit www.themuscogeeeknation.com



Mvskoke Film Festival entry deadline set for Sept. 14

Christina Good Voice
Mvskoke Media Manager

JENKS — The first annual Mvskoke Film Festival is calling for entries for the event, which will showcase the talents of Native filmmakers at the two-day festival Sept. 28 - 29.

Entries will be accepted until Sept. 14.

The festival will be held at Riverwalk Movies, 300 Riverwalk Terrace in Jenks, Okla.

“We are excited to bring this event to Tulsa and hope people really enjoy it,” said Gerald Wofford, Mvskoke Film Festival co-coordinator.

The festival will have seven categories: Documentary, Feature, Animation, Comedy, Short (not to exceed 30 minutes) and Student Film. The student category be broken down into two sub-categories which include college/high school and youth.

“The student category will be high school and college individually,” Wofford said.

A scholarship is also being created for both student categories, and will be awarded at an awards banquet the evening of Sept. 25. Winners of the festival entries will also

be recognized at the banquet, which will be a ‘red-carpet’ style event for attendees. The awards ceremony will feature a guest speaker, meal and sneak previews of the film entries. Tickets are \$15 for the all-inclusive ticket, which will get you into the banquet and both days of the film screenings, \$10 for two-day screening ticket and \$5 for a one-day ticket to the screenings. Those who enter films will receive two complimentary banquet tickets and two, two-day screening passes.

For the official list of rules, please visit muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

A \$35 entry fee is required per entry for professional films, and a \$10 entry fee is required for students per entry.

Entries must be submitted in DVD or Blu-ray Disc format.

For more information about the festival and awards banquet, contact co-coordinators Gerald Wofford at 918-732-7635 or gwofford@mcn-nsn.gov or Christina Good Voice at 918-732-7630 or cgoodvoice@mcn-nsn.gov.



OLC 6th Annual
Fall Harvest Festival

2012

Friday, September 21

Feast ~ 5:30 PM. and
Ceremonial Dance ~ 7:30 PM.
Movie on the lawn ~ 6:00 PM.
Bring blankets/chairs and enjoy
watching the movie on our 2 story
big screen TV.

Saturday, September 22

Parade ~ 10:00 A.M.
Closing date: September 17, 2012
Registration: 8:30 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.
Line up: 9:30 A.M.
(Church of Christ parking lot, 7th & Broadway)

Festival Events ~ 12:00 PM.
Kiddie land ~ 12:00 PM
3 inflatables, obstacle courses &
carnival rides

Saturday, September 22

Outdoor Concert ~ 12:00 PM.
Raz-N-Kane ~ 12:00 PM.
Sweatin Bullets ~ 2:00 PM.
Jason Young Band ~ 4:00 PM. -
(Oklahoma's No. 1 Best live music)
Brian Hughes - 6:00 PM.
Live CD debut: up for Male Vocalist in Oklahoma

Battle of the Bands ~ 8:00 PM.
Golf Tournament, V-ball, Horseshoe, Bas-
ketball, and Softball will take place during
the Festival food and merchandise vendors
on location.

For more information, please call 918-623-9225

Okemah Indian Community

The logo for the Okemah Indian Community features a stylized, colorful design. It includes a large, multi-colored star or flower shape in the center, surrounded by various geometric patterns and colors like red, blue, yellow, and green. The text "Okemah Indian Community" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the middle of the logo.

New liaison aims to balance state and tribal concerns

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — After nearly a year’s delay, Gov. Mary Fallin, has named an American Indian Liaison to replace the Indian Affairs Commission.

Jacque Secondine Hensley, a member of the Kaw Nation, began the task of serving as the governor’s representative and as the conduit for tribal governmental concerns of the Oklahoma state tribes. In sizing up the job, Hensley said she’ll probably want to break up the challenges, “It’s pretty overwhelming. So, you have to take everything individually. It seems doable. I think a lot of people think that it’s just me. There are two other people on my staff, one is a legal council that does my research.”

The liaison position replaces the Indian Affairs Commission, which had over a dozen members. With nearly 40 federally recognized tribes, each with its own concerns and culture, Hensley will have a lot of tasks on her agenda she said those concerns will now get more attention. “It kind of elevates the status in that it’s an executive position. I have the ear of the governor. I’m housed in the governor’s office. I plan on meeting with the tribes and listening and coming back. I have the direct ear of the governor. I think that’s a little bit different than the commission had. I think they did a wonderful job and I’m in very close contact with Barbara Warner, who was heading up that commission,” Hensley said.

Because of the new position, Fallin’s relationship with tribes should be enhanced, Hensley said, “Well, I think it was a good relationship at the beginning, but I think as a part of her office, now, I can go out and do the things that she doesn’t have time to do. Me going out and talking to the tribes and making sure that their needs are heard by the governor, I think that was key for her. She does feel that the tribes and what their ideas and what they want, is very important.”

Alex Weintz, the governor’s press secretary, described Fallin’s priorities, “The governors over arching agenda is bringing more jobs to the state....we want to work with the tribes whenever we can on all the issues. The tribes have an enormous economic footprint.”

As for what Hensley sees on the horizon, it’s the compacts between tribes and the state over tobacco, “I know there are quite a few compacts that are at the deadline to renew them and that’s what’s imminently important now.”

With major cultural differences and priorities among Okla. tribes, Hensley recognizes it will be difficult to keep up with them. “Again,” she said, “you have to look on it on a case-to-case basis and that’s what I’m going to try to do. I’m going to go out to the tribes and try to hold a ‘round table’ discussion, so, hopefully, tribal councils and tribal members will talk to me. I can’t get anything to the governor, unless I know what their needs are.”

In a situation where the governor and tribal governments are at odds, Hensley said she would try to remain neutral and keep the flow of information moving, “My job is a liaison and I can’t take either side, even though I do work for the governor and I know that she has the best interest of what tribes need. Now, I think communication is the key and I hope to be the conduit of that communication between the tribes and the governor.”

The new liaison hopes to establish some regular form of communication between state and tribal governments and understands that there may be some rough spots in those relationships, “Not everyone is going to like me. I’m sure there’s some people out there who are not. At the same time my job is to take all that information back and talk with the governor,” she said.

Hensley graduated from Oklahoma State University and has a master’s degree from Tulsa University. She has worked for the Department of Defense and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



MCN citizen completes bicycle tour benefiting cancer research



Photo submitted/Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and cancer survivor Chasilee Crawford (center) with fellow riders from the Pelotonia bicycle tour.

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter

COLUMBUS, Ohio — “It is the word you don’t want to hear, the word that will bring you down to your knees,” Muscogee (Creek) citizen Eleanor Irene VanBuskirk shared her feelings about her daughter Chasilee Crawford’s diagnosis with thyroid cancer eight days after Crawford gave birth to her second child.

Now almost a decade later, Crawford has beaten cancer and is helping others with their fight by chasing down a cure through the Pelotonia bicycle tour. The Pelotonia tour is a cancer benefit, which provides funding to the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute.

“It was my first year participating. I thought this would be a great way to give back to the medical community and help find a cure for cancer,” Crawford said.

The Pelotonia tour is in its fourth year and has continued to grow. This year, the tour had over 6,000 participants and raised \$10.5 million. The tour had around 5,000 participants and raised \$8.8 million in 2011.

The tour is made up of several riding groups. Crawford, a member of the Village Riders group, completed a 100-mile leg of the tour and personally raised \$1,905.

A portion of the funds raised by Crawford were donated through MCN National Council Amendment 12-157, which was sponsored by Rep. Kara Medina.

“It’s just wonderful to see our Muscogee people giving back like that. I’m just very proud of her and what she’s accomplished,” Medina said.

Crawford expressed her gratitude toward Medina and the Council for their donation.

“If it wasn’t for all of them I would

still be pounding the pavement looking for donors,” Crawford said.

Instead, all Crawford had to do was pound the pavement with her tires and the donations came in.

“I was really worried about joining the Pelotonia, I was worried about raising the money. My group mates kept telling me, ‘If you want to ride just ride, the money will come,’ and that’s what happened,” she said.

According to Crawford, an outpouring of thanks came as well.

“I didn’t realize how important and fantastic it was until I was on my bike. People were cheering and carrying signs. There was a gentleman sitting along the road holding a sign and it said, ‘Thank you for curing my wife,’” she said.

As a former hospice nurse, Crawford has not only experienced the effects of cancer, she’s seen them as well. While she inspired many survivors with her story, she did not forget those who lost their life in the fight against cancer either. Crawford dedicated her ride this year to one of her patients who also suffered from thyroid cancer, but did not survive.

It is this first hand experience that continues to drive Crawford.

“I’m very proud of the fact that she would not let cancer beat her and that she went a step further by committing to help those who are still battling cancer to find a cure. She doesn’t cry, she doesn’t moan or look for pity; she fought back,” VanBuskirk said.

Crawford said she plans to participate in the Pelotonia again in 2013 and has plans to participate in another bicycle tour pertinent to her own culture.

“Next year will be my 10-year anniversary. My goal for that is to continue riding and be the first Native

American woman to do the Ocmulgee to Okmulgee tour,” she said.

The first Ocmulgee to Okmulgee Trail of Tears bicycle tour took place in June and began at Ocmulgee National Park in Macon, Ga., and retraced the Muscogee (Creek) Trail of Tears to current the Creek capitol in Okmulgee, Okla. MCN citizen John Beaver who completed and helped facilitate this tour, in order to raise cultural awareness as well as fitness, shared his feelings about Crawford’s plan.

“I think it’s fantastic. It’s great to know that this event continues to pick up causes. It has spun off in ways we haven’t even anticipated and we’re certainly happy about that,” Beaver said.

Crawford also continues to roll on in her personal life. Having just graduated with her bachelor degree in nursing, she plans to continue to her charitable path by finding a position in community service.

“I feel like this is the path that God has chosen for her,” VanBuskirk said.

VanBuskirk may have fallen to her knees when she first heard of her daughter’s diagnosis but now she’s on them for a much more positive reason.

“It brings me down to my knees and I hold my hands up to the heavens and thank God because she is well and strong and because of what she’s doing today,” she said.

To go directly to Crawford’s personal profile on the Pelotonia web page visit: https://www.mypelotonia.org/riders_profile.jsp?MemberID=195513&SearchStart=0&PAGE=NG or go to www.mypelotonia.org

Type ‘Crawford’ in the search bar and click on Chasilee’s profile in the results.

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Cynthia Tainpeah

Muscogee Creek Nation

Creek embroidery business launched in Jenks

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

JENKS — It's a new business that aims to 'sew up' a spot in the market for professional embroidery work in the northeast Oklahoma area.

EmbroideryDesigns is owned by the Tulsa Creek Indian Community. It produces patches, shirts, caps and related products with custom designed artwork. The company offers quality work and apparel to tribes, sports teams, casinos and gift shops, and other prospective clients. The new business held its grand opening Aug. 11.

Carmen Tiger is business manager for the project. She has over 15 years of experience in the embroidery industry and understands the need for top-notch logo work, a goal they are striving for in the new venture.

The business is small right now, occupying two suites at 416 and 418 A East B St., in Jenks and currently employs five people.

Tiger has set her sights on larger targets. She hopes to develop corporations as the basic clientele, "We actually specialize in corporations and companies. We do smaller orders for individuals, as well, but our primary focus is to work with the tribal nations, the casinos, the military contracts, things of that sort."

EmbroideryDesigns, Tiger points out, can serve clients from start to finish. "We do design the logos, but we're also asked to come up with the designs for the gift shops as well. Like, for the Cherokee Nation, they will give me an idea of what they're looking for to sell for that season and I might come up with 10 designs for them to choose from. Then they'll decide which design they want and how many garments and how many sizes and colors for that whole season," Tiger said.

The company can reproduce the designs on a variety of garments, such as hats, jackets, T-shirts, socks and other things.

Tiger is proud of the fact that all their work is done in-house on their own machines and that they do not out-source the work. That enables the company to eliminate many 'middle-man' costs and offer competitive prices.

TCIC already runs the Riverside Smoke Shop and they chose the embroidery business as a way to diversify their income. It will occupy a needed niche in the Jenks area economy, because there is currently no other place to get such work done in their community.

To attract tribal business, the company is working to become Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) certified as an Indian company.

Currently, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation does not have a TERO ordinance.



MNN/Gary Fife

EmbroideryDesign Business manager Carmen Tiger displays their embroidery equipment at the shop located in Jenks, Okla.

Tiger aims to make EmbroideryDesigns a known entity in the specialty business,

"We want to be on the map in Oklahoma and be recognized as a premier provider of embroidery services. We want our work to be quality. Just us being recognized and everyone knowing we are here, we can take care of all their employees' needs as

dian Community for the support, both financial and moral, that has been critical to bringing the project to fruition. She said they have put their heads together to make the plan a viable business, unrelated to the gaming industry.

Although starting up a business can be a time and resource consuming enterprise, Tiger said she would encourage any young person with a similar dream to pursue it but it is important to have someone to show you the way,

"I believe if somebody has an entrepreneurial spirit they should probably do it. But I think that they definitely need to take, or work with somebody that has done this before, or maybe has had several businesses that were successful. They really need guidance in that area. It's very important to have somebody, like a mentor to help you and to show you the ropes and teach you things."

The downside of such an effort is the amount of regulatory procedure and paperwork necessary to comply with appropriate laws,

"What I know is how crucial it is for this industry, even down to the taxes. You have to file your taxes, you've got to go get you sales tax permit, you've got to get a certificate. You need to go to the bank and fill out the paperwork as well, which requires them to have that certificate from Oklahoma or Creek Nation, if you're registered in Creek Nation. There's a lot of little things that you have to do. The most important thing is to have a strategy, a marketing strategy and a business plan."

far as their company logo but also casinos, their gift shops, things like that. We just want to be recognized as quality and a good price as well."

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger was on hand for the ribbon-cutting and had words of encouragement for the TCIC enterprise,

"It's not only a brand new enterprise, but it's a new journey for Muscogee (Creek) Nation through one of its communities. I think it's great. I think that any time one of our communities can get involved on a local basis for economic development, that says a lot about the leadership of that community and the direction they're taking as far as business enterprise is concerned."

Carmen Tiger credits the Business Board of the Tulsa Creek In-



Creek woman named IICOT princess

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA — Julia Hayden Wakeford, 16, was crowned Princess of the Inter-Tribal Indian Club of Tulsa (IICOT), Aug. 17.

Wakeford is a junior at Jenks High School. She has lettered twice in Varsity Debate, a skill that was quite evident as she described her dedication to the IICOT club and this pow-wow, "I feel really excited. My family and me have been visiting the IICOT organization my entire life. I'm really excited to represent them. I've wanted to be their princess since I was a really little girl."

Wakeford recognized that assuming the royalty position brought a lot of responsibility with it, "It is a lot of responsibility, but it's something, as a native woman, as a native girl, and as a part of my family, I've grown to know and I've always grown up with the responsibility of being presentable. So, that was part of the reason the organization chose me."

Being a Native American woman in such as position is not like being part of any other pageant in the country. "I think it's definitely different. Native women have a different sort of role in their community. As a princess, you get an opportunity to represent and show the world who we are as Native people. It's very specific to Native women, because men have to take on different roles in the community and I think, instead of being a setback for women, it's something more prominent in society and they have the ability to represent their Native people and women. They get to show their strength and their beauty at the same time. So, it's a bit different than the ideas we have about beauty queens."

She was wearing a buckskin dress that was a gift, but Wakeford said, her Creek and Euchee heritage was a very large part of her life, "Yes, I'm very active in my Creek tribe. My grandma is Ramona Mason and we always discuss the Creek. In fact, I'm very close with my Creek heri-

tage and I love Creek history, but also Euchee is my home grounds. I'm an active member of Duck Creek ceremonial grounds. I was the first Euchee princess the year before last."

She has been a class officer and student council officer. She was the Native American Student Association Sophomore Representative, a member of Spanish Club, Drug Free Youth, Key Club, and President of the Young Democrats. She was awarded the Ten Year pin as a Girl Scout, where she has earned her Silver and Bronze Awards and is currently working on her Gold Award, the highest award for Girl Scouts.

Wakeford has held two other titles previously. She was princess for the Circle of Friends and SKINS New Year's Eve Pow-Wow and in 2010 she was crowned as the very first Euchee Tribal Princess. That same year she was won Middle School Student of the Year from the Mvskoke Women's Leadership Initiative.

She is the daughter of Marcy and O. Steven Wakeford, III of Jenks, Okla. A member of the Bear Clan, she was raised at the Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground and the Gray Horse District of the In- Lon-Ska. Her home church is Montesoma Indian Baptist. Her Mvskoke name is Tenhessehiyv, which means Friend Maker, given to her by her great-aunt, Norma Knight.

Wakeford has ambitious educational and career plans. She intends to attend college with a double major in Native American Studies and philosophy. After that, she hopes to continue into law school and work in the Native rights fields on the state and national levels.

She encourages other young Native women to participate in Native cultural activities such as pow-wow royalty competitions, "I definitely would. It not only opens the public's eyes to Native American culture, but it also opens you, yourself, to Native American culture."



MNN/Gary Fife

Julia Wakeford leads her Honor Dance after being crowned 2012 IICOT Princess.

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Rain barrels conserve water and dollars

Submitted by Susumu Daniels
MCN Environmental Services

OKMULGEE — With the hot summer, the suffering is shared by everything. Pets, lawns and gardens are probably all seeing some signs of stress. With the cost of water increasing, the price of watering gardens could be going through the roof.

Water conservation is important to preserving the fresh water supply. There are many outdoor water-saving tips that can be utilized to help save on tap water use.

One way to conserve water is to use rain barrels or catchers to collect and store rainwater from rooftops for lawn and garden use. Rain barrels can also conserve water, help reduce water bills and reduce pollution by reducing stormwater runoff.

Water collected in a rain barrel would usually flow off the roof or through roof gutters and downspouts becoming stormwater runoff. Depending on where the home is located, this runoff can travel across paved surfaces and into a storm drain. Rain barrels can also be arranged to slowly release the collected rain water to areas that can soak up the water, reducing stormwater runoff and increasing groundwater recharge. Rain barrels can also be used to save water for plants during dry periods.

Rain barrels are inexpensive, easy to install and easy to maintain. Ready-made rain barrels can be purchased at local suppliers or online.

To keep garden produce safe,

water collected in the rain barrel should be used with considerations. Water collected off a roof, from gutters and downspouts, is not considered to be “drinkable” or potable water. Remember, birds and animals are also on the roof. So, water from the roof can contain bacteria and other disease-causing organisms from bird and other animal waste that might be on the roof. How you use this water in your garden and the type of plants you use it on is an important consideration. Rain barrel water is fine if used to water lawns or non-edible plants that won’t be consumed such as ornamental flowers.

Collected rainwater may also be used in vegetable gardens, but only in the same way that other non potable water is used. Gardeners should avoid using overhead irrigation. It is best to use this water for drip or trickle irrigation. This prevents contamination of edible above-ground plant parts that are hard to clean, especially leafy greens. However, the vegetable is not safe to eat unless it is thoroughly washed using “drinkable” water first. Rain barrel water should not be used close to harvest time to water the vegetable garden and should never be used to wash fruits or vegetable from the garden or orchard prior to consumption.

For more information or tips on rain barrels, contact Muscogee (Creek) Nation Environmental Services at 918-549-2578.



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Anderson ensures golf club is ‘up to par’

MNBE CEO Woody Anderson shares his plans for the Okmulgee Golf Club

Sterling Cosper
MNN Reporter
Interview By: Jason Salsman/
Multimedia Supervisor

OKMULGEE — “We’re really excited to be given this challenge; this is a really unique piece of property with a lot of history,” Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise (MNBE) CEO Woody Anderson said about being given oversight of the Okmulgee Golf Club, purchased by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation May 10.

Anderson shared MNBE’s initial plans for the golf club.

“The main things we’re looking at are getting the staff secured, cleaning up and establishing a master plan for the site. We’re going to evaluate the course and have professionals come out here and take a look at how we can bring this place up,” he said.

Anderson stated that once the club is up and running they plan to have a restaurant, bar and host various events like banquets and weddings.

“This facility needs to be able to continue to function and we need to make it even a better experience for everybody than before,” he said.



MNN/Gary Fife
The Okmulgee Golf Club is currently managed by Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise, which is developing a master plan for the facility.

He also shared some plans for the outdoor portion of the facility.

“We have an old pool out here that is inoperable. Our goal is to maybe have a new pool or waterpark put in,” Anderson said.

Anderson also mentioned Principal Chief George Tiger’s plan for possible veteran housing on the club grounds.

He emphasized the importance of developing branding for the club as part of this planning.

“What do we want to call this in the future?” he asked.

Anderson shared his high expectations for the club’s future.

“What you want to do is invite anyone in here but especially our

tribal citizens so that you have that club feeling. Something that people can access and make it first class, I can tell you that the expectation from the tribal leadership, as always, is first class,” he said.

Anderson thanked Will Lowe with MCN Tourism and Recreation, Facilities Manager Bill Dowdy and his staff for assistance with the project as well as the National Council for providing funds to help MNBE through the initial phase of the project.

He expressed his gratitude for this assistance.

“The Creek Nation has really been able to put the resources behind this place,” Anderson said.

California Muscogee (Creek) Association hosts annual gathering

Darren DeLaune
MNN Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Representatives of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation attended the annual Gathering of the California Muscogee (Creek) Association (CMCA) at the Native American United Methodist Church in Anaheim Aug. 4.

MCN Principal Chief George Tiger, members of his cabinet and the Executive Branch as well as representatives from the MCN National Council traveled from Oklahoma to represent the nation at this event.

Muscogee (Creek) citizens throughout California made the trip to Anaheim to meet the nation’s delegates and learn more about what is taking place back in Oklahoma.



MNN/Darren DeLaune
Mvskoke language instructors taught youth and adult language classes at the annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association Gathering Aug. 4 in Anaheim.

Ken Taylor, Board Member of the CMCA, gave an introduction on how the CMCA was formed into what it is today.

“To me, personally, it means a lot to have members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation come out here to us,” said Taylor. “It shows us that they care about us, and about our concerns. It also gives us out here a chance to meet the new Principal Chief, his staff. We finally get to put a name with the face.”

George Windes, Board Member and Historian for the CMCA, helped with registration for the meeting and shared some of the tribe’s history.

“It is very important for members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to come out here and visit,” Windes said. “Many families in the CMCA have been out here for decades. The only way we can keep our culture out here is to have a local organization, to bring people out here to share and remind us of our heritage. We can be Creeks in California, but still Creeks.”

After a prayer and lunch, the meeting followed with Speaker of

the National Council Sam Alexander and the introductions of representatives.

“I am very happy to be out here with the California Muscogee (Creek) Association,” Alexander said. “Anytime they call us and invite us out here, we should accommodate their wishes. They are Creeks just like us back in Oklahoma. It is also important that the members out here feel free to contact the National Council at anytime.”

MCN departments such as Social Services, Higher Education, Mvskoke Language Department, Election Board and Citizenship assisted citizens.

Mvskoke Language Department employees Minnie Proctor and Gracine Hicks held two classes for youth and adults to learn the Mvskoke language.

“The class for the youth went really well,” Proctor said. “For the short time that we had them, it turned out great.”

“They were able to learn greetings, action words, numbers, and colors,” Hicks said. “They learned

to introduce themselves and with the little time that they had they learned pretty fast. If we could have stayed a little bit longer it would have worked out for them. They wanted more time to learn the language.”

Tiger presented his semi-annual report for the Nation during his first six months. In the report, it showed the FY 2012 Comprehensive Budget of both revenues and expenditures. The report also took a look at the different departments throughout MCN as well as awards and accomplishments from individuals and departments.

“In my first six months, we have made many advances for our tribe to keep moving forward,” Tiger said. “We wanted to show you what we have done and what we will continue to be doing in the future for our tribe. There is no, ‘Creeks in Oklahoma’ and ‘Creeks here in California,’ we are all one as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”

Mvskoke hymns were sung to adjourn the meeting.

Creek athlete receives new prosthetic legs

Gerald Wofford
MNN Feature Writer

TULSA — Joe Martell III is a blessed young man. His father, Joe Martell, Jr., is a big reason why.

The elder Martel has always been involved with different sports while growing up in the Eufaula Boarding School. He knew the importance of growing up in an environment where sports and games were needed and simply how much fun they were to play. That’s why, when he grew up and started a family with his wife, Kimberly, they anticipated the addition of children and how wonderful it would be to introduce and show their sons or daughters the world of sports.

Along came their first son, Joe Martel III. When he was born, they knew the introduction to the world of competitive games would take a different route because their son wasn’t born with the use of two functioning legs. The young Martell was born without the use of a tibia, found in the ankle area in both legs, which is part of the support system of the lower extremities. Without it, the young Muscogee (Creek) would go through life not being able to walk properly.

The couple decided that at the young age of one and a half, they would have their son’s legs amputated and immediately begin the process of teaching their child to walk with prosthetic legs.

This didn’t hinder the Martels’ wishes for their son to play and compete in any sport he choose. As he grew, the Martels could tell he would be an active child and Joe and Kimberly knew prosthetic legs were the answer.

Martel III is now 11-years-old and will turn 12 on Oct. 14 and is ready for football season to begin.

Since he was two, he has been fitted with eight different prosthetic legs. Each time there has been a different fit, due to his growth spurts, which have occurred at different ages.

On a hot Tuesday afternoon in August, Joe and son, along with younger sibling, Mekusapv, or as they sometimes call him ‘Lil Red,’ traveled to ‘Specialty Prosthetics and Orthotics of Tulsa,’ also called SPOT, to get Martel III fitted with his new prosthetics. Martel’s physician, Dr. Mike Feener, will not only be changing his leg size to be congruent with his growing upper body, but will also fit Joe with a ‘two-sprinter’ or an activity leg for him to use in sports.

Martel III will also keep his regular legs, which he will use when not competing.

As Feener adjusted the two-sprinter with pliers and screwdrivers, Martel III let him know how they feel. They tested the legs in the front parking lot to see how quickly the young man could run and move in them. Martel III plans on being the linebacker for Beggs’ sixth grade football team this year.

“I’m very pleased with the progress that Joe has made,” says Feener. He sees how the world of prosthetics has evolved over the years. “People have been able to do so much more, especially over the last 10 years; we even have an athlete with prosthetic legs competing in the Olympics now.”

Martell Jr., is pleased and thankful for the assistance from the tribe in helping his young son’s dreams come true. “I want to thank Chief Tiger and the Muscogee (Creek) National Council in their assistance in helping my son get his new legs. You’re helping him achieve a lot of goals in his life.”



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

Joe Martel, Jr., (left) and son Joe Martell III are pictured above at the National Council Quarterly Session in July. The National Council passed the legislation approving the funding for Martel’s new set of prosthetic legs.

Okemah Panthers look for great 2012 season

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

OKEMAH — Coach Joe Turner and the Okemah High School Panthers are finishing up a great pre-season. This football team wants to turn that into and even better 2012-2013 season.

Last season, the football team went 8-4 and loss in the second round of the playoffs to Lincoln Christian. To a lot of schools and teams in this state, that is a good season. Okemah knows that that was a good season and wants to build on that and be more successful for this year.

“Pre-season is going real good,” Turner said. “Our numbers are up; we have a lot of depth compared to what we have the three previous years here since I have been coaching. We have a lot of respect from the other coaches in our district. They are picking us to win District 2A-5 this season.”

Another thing about this football team is that there are a lot of Native Americans on this roster. At least 90 percent of this team is Native and the entire offensive line is Muscogee (Creek).

“We have a lot of starters returning for us,” said Turner. “Seven starters on both offense and defense are coming back for this year. Of the 11 on offense, 10 are Native American and the same for defense. Of the 11 on defense, nine are Native American.”

Turner feels their running game will take them to victory this season.

“How our offense is played is no secret,” Turner said. “We want to run the football. We want to play smash-mouth football. What helps with that is we also throw the football and we throw the football effectively. And having that game on the ground will open up the passing game for us. When we throw the ball we have guys wide open because so many teams



MNN/Darren DeLaune

Coach Joe Turner and the Okemah Panthers Football Team are gearing up for a deep play-off run.

are worried about our run game.”

The same goes with defense. “For defense we run the 4-4,” Turner said. “That is our main defense and we will change it up depending on how the other team’s offense looks, but the 4-4 is what we use. Our conditioning is our pursuit drill. We do not run sprints just to run sprints. We use this drill to get this defense ready. How we run this drill in practice is how we will run it in the games.”

Derek Garcia is a junior and plays middle linebacker for the Panthers and he knows his team and himself will be ready for the games on Friday nights.

“I play middle linebacker for this team,” Garcia said. “It feels great being out there at every moment. Seeing all the action, making plays, and being out there with my teammates.”

The Panthers play with pride but had to learn that games are more than the first half.

“Before I came here to Okemah,” Turner said. “I talked to other coaches that have played them and they told me that these kids here are tough. The first half they will play hard and give you everything they

Longacre returns to Hard Rock Casino Sept. 21

Darren DeLaune
MNN Sports Reporter

TULSA — “Jab, straight, knee, straight, hook and kick,” says Longacre. “Next, do 10 pushups and repeat for two minutes.”

These are some of the combinations that students go through taking a Thunderkick Fitness cardio kickboxing class. This one-hour session is a grueling test of strength, cardio and stamina. When their physical strength is expended, mental toughness takes over.

Cardio kickboxing is one of the training sessions that Thunderkick Fitness offers. The gym also offers beginning and advanced mixed martial arts (MMA) as well as karate classes.

“The gym is going good, real good,” Longacre said. “Every month it keeps getting bigger and bigger. One great thing about my gym is that it is very family-oriented. We have a great family environment. Everybody welcomes everyone and motivates everyone. Just like brothers and sisters.”

World champion kickboxer Thomas “Thunderkick” Longacre owns the gym Thunderkick Fitness and it is also the training site for Longacre as he is preparing for his Sept. 21 fight at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

“We are starting the training camp to get myself ready for this fight,” Longacre said. “It has been about a year since people have saw me fight last. During that time, I was able to get my gym going, promote my gym, now that that is going great, I’ve been itching to return to the ring to showcase my talents and to show



Photo submitted/Thomas Longacre
Thomas “Thunderkick” Longacre will face Marcio Navarro Sept. 21 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

the people what they have been waiting a while to see.”

Longacre explained the training that goes along with his camp.

“Usually, my training camp will last about eight weeks,” Longacre said. “Each week I will be turning the intensity up, as it gets closer to fight night. I’m excited about it. I have the ‘eye of the tiger’ again.”

Longacre said training is tough but required.

“Every fighter hates the road [training] to a fight,” Longacre said. “It is a long, grueling road to take. That is what makes you better. That is what makes you stronger and more disciplined. There are a lot of sacrifices that a fighter makes in getting ready.”

Longacre is very proud of the support he gets from the American Indian community for his gym and his upcoming fight.

got. The second half is when everything went south. That mentality needed to change. In any game, for any sport you have to give it everything you have for that whole game. Not a quarter, not a half, the whole game.”

Turner knows they are taking that step in the right direction. Everyone wants to succeed so he feels that everyone has the same goals.

“The 12 years before I came here to Okemah we were 24-96 and football was not going anywhere,” said Turner. “In the last three years we have turned that to 21-12. Because everyone from the coaches and players wants to win and knows what it takes to win. We thrive on discipline. We play hard and the kids know they need to play hard or they will not be out on that field on Friday nights.”

This team knows what is in front of them.

“This is going to be a great season,” Garcia said. “We want to win our district, but I think we can go farther and go to state,” he said.

The first test for this season will be a big one as they take on Tahlequah-Sequoyah.

“With the gym opening, there are a lot more people who get to see me in person,” Longacre said. “Especially from the Creeks. A lot more have come out to my gym and become members and support someone that is a member of their tribe and that is their own. I love fighting for my fans. I love fighting for my people. I love putting on a great show and letting them see my fighting skills.”

Longacre admits that there are obstacles that come with getting ready for his fight but knows that he will make the best of the situation.

“There are obstacles in front of me,” Longacre said. “I think they are great obstacles. I’m a teacher, instructor, mentor, role model, business owner and fighter. And not only with the classes, I have this fight coming up. I have to find balance with everything. It is non-stop. I always have something to do. When I am training, I cannot worry about my classes. The same with classes, I cannot worry about my training or my fight.”

Longacre said is that he will give all his fans 100 percent and leave it all in the ring.

“You are only going to be good as you train to be,” Longacre said. “I am training to be the best for this fight. Get ready for Sept. 21 at the Hard Rock Casino. I am going to give you all the best that I have been training for in this fight. You are going to see the best Thomas “Thunderkick” Longacre.”

Longacre (28-0) will face Marcio Navarro (24-0).

OBITUARIES

GARRY EUGENE BERRYHILL, SR.



HECTORVILLE — Garry Eugene Berryhill, Sr., 65, departed from this life July 10, 2012, in his home at Hectorville Community. He was born Oct. 3, 1946, in Tulsa, to Juanita (Bighead) Berryhill and Neffie Grant Berryhill. Garry was the Great-Great Grandson of Samuel Checotah, the first elected Chief of Creek Nation. Garry attended schools in Sapulpa, Liberty Mounds, Sequoyah and Amarillo, Texas. At the age of 18, he joined the Navy and did his basic training in Florida. This began his 22 years of service to his country. He did nine tours in Vietnam and was stationed three years at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. His last station was in San Diego, Calif., where he was assigned to the Navy Seal Team Three. He was very proud to be a part of Seal Team Three. His ship was the USS Ranger. After retiring from the Navy he remained in California until 1991 when he returned to Oklahoma.

Garry was an intelligent man with many interests in life. He liked to read and he loved to cook. Another passion was entertaining children; he always had a big place in his heart for kids and animals. Before becoming disabled, he was the Manager of the Creek Nation Travel Plaza and prior to that he served as the Gaming Commissioner. He also worked as a Paralegal for many Attorneys in Tulsa and California.

Left to cherish his memories are one son, Garry Eugene Berryhill, Jr., and companion, Teresa, Tulsa; one sister, Geri Berryhill Johnson, and husband, Jimmy, Okmulgee; six cousins raised as his sisters and brothers, Gloria Jean Tulsa Ware, Genelle Tulsa Myer, Juanita “Pete” Tulsa Thompson, Kathy Tulsa; Johnny Tulsa, Anthony “Tony” Tulsa; one uncle, July “Grandpa” Tulsa and his beloved dog, “Blondi” Berryhill; many cousins and friends.

Funeral service was officiated by Rev. Alfred Berryhill July 13, 2012 at Pickett Chapel in Sapulpa, Okla. Burial was at Pleasantland Berryhill Family Cemetery in Okmulgee, Okla.

ROBERT R. FREEMAN

OKMULGEE — Robert “Bob” Freeman, formerly of Shawnee, Kansas, passed away at his home in Okmulgee in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 at the age of 92. He was born on March 30, 1920 in Edna, Oklahoma to Carlyle D. Freeman and Louvina Harjo Freeman. He was baptized at the age of 13 in the Montesoma Indian Baptist Church in Edna. He was educated at Nuyaka Indian Mission, Euchee Boarding School and Haskell Indian Boarding School in Lawrence, Kansas.



Bob was a veteran of the Army Air Corps, serving in the Pacific Theater as a gunner and flight engineer during World War II. He joined the service at the age of 21 and was honorably discharged at the age of 26.

Robert retired from Phillips Petroleum Company Refinery of Kansas City in 1982, where he worked as a refinery stillman. He was recognized for his 36 years of continuous and loyal service to Phillips Petroleum in September 1982. He also worked in the musician-stage hand union.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; sister, Ruby Bernard; cousin, Lillian Freeman Thomas; three brothers, Woodrow, Joseph, and Carl Freeman; his wife of 38 years, Hepsey Berryhill; and their infant sons, Robin and Robert Freeman.

Robert is survived by his sons, Douglas Freeman and family of Sapulpa, Okla., Lee Freeman and family of Overland Park, Kansas, Vernon Freeman of Oklahoma City, Randall Freeman and family of Independence, Mo., and Max Freeman and family of Olathe, Kansas; his daughters, Freida Stober and family of Okmulgee, Anita Freeman and family of Okmulgee, Odette Freeman and family of Glenpool, Carla Hoehn and family of Lenexa, Kansas, Abigail Wasley and family of Winslow, Ariz., and Shannon Cocke and family of Lynchburg, Va.; 22 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. He will be missed, never forgotten and forever loved.

Pallbearers were Eugene Freeman, Micco Freeman, Jason Stober, Nathan Freeman, Tonee Freeman, Luke Wasley, Matthew Wasley, Brandon Freeman, and Shane Freeman. Honorary Pallbearers were Roy Bear, Phillip Coon, Steven Long, Yarme Tarपालेche and Joseph “Jokie” Pope.

A graveside funeral service was held Aug. 10, 2012 at 11:30 a.m., at the Tallahassee Indian Methodist Church Cemetery on W. Celia Berryhill Road in Okmulgee with Rev. Alfred Berryhill and Sammy Chupco officiating.

Burial followed under the direction of Integrity Funeral Service of Henryetta.

Cards may be sent to: 1113 S. Alabama Street, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

MARY HALL



OKMULGEE — Mary Ann Hall, a resident of Henryetta,

passed away July 9, 2012 in Okmulgee, Okla., at the age of 42.

She was born Sept. 14, 1969 in Okemah, Okla., to Joe Allen Waybourn and Priscilla (Fish) Waybourn.

She attended the Church of Christ in Henryetta.

Mary is survived by her daughter, Mary Joe Hall, and fiancée Ethan Alexander Vierson of Henryetta, mother, Priscilla Waybourn of Okemah, four sisters: Loraine Waybourn of New York, Brenda Behlen of Texas, Lorene Fisher and husband Doug of Sapulpa and Retha Dodson of Okmulgee; the love of her life Brian David Hall of Afghanistan, nephews Tyler Phillips, James and Brian Behlen, nieces Rachel Pierce and Leeanna Dodson as well as a host of great nieces, nephews and other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m., July 16 at the Church of Christ with Rex Walcher officiating.

MONTE PRICE



JAY — Monte Lee Price, 39, a Jay, Okla., resident passed away July 29, 2012.

Monte was born Jan. 27, 1973 in Claremore, Okla., to Dorothy Summerfield Price and Danny Price. He was baptized in the Jay Tsa La Gi United Methodist Church. Monte was a 1991 graduate of Jay High School and was All-State in football in 1990. Monte was an outstanding athlete and excelled in football and track in Jay, Okla., and Albuquerque, N.M.

He was enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, where he was finishing his Bachelor's Degree.

Monte worked as Information Technology Systems Administrator for TAMKO Building Products in Joplin, Mo.

He loved being outdoors. Monte enjoyed hunting deer, gigging, fishing, boating and golf. Monte also enjoyed watching his daughter, Chloe, play basketball and run cross-country.

Monte is survived by his daughter, Chloe Price, of Jay, Okla.; mother Dorothy Summerfield, his father Danny Price and wife Sandy; brother, Jay J. Price of Adair, Okla.; his sister Raven Matlock and husband Will; paternal grandmother Melba Price; three uncles: Brad Price and wife Sandi, Roger Simmons and wife Janey of Sallisaw, Okla., and Eddie “Sunny” Summerfield and wife Alice of Muskogee, Okla., and aunt Anita Smith and husband Stanley of Tahlequah, Okla.

Monte is also survived by great aunt, Annie Mae O’Field; and nine cousins Levi Price, Meghan Hamby, Brian Smith, Adrienne Smith, Jana Smith, Gretchen Summerfield-Newman, Beau Simmons, Matt Simmons and Joseph Simmons.

Monte is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Ed Summerfield and Mary Helen Summerfield and paternal grand-

father Sammy Price

Funeral services were held at Mt. Hermon Church in Jay, Okla., at 1:30 p.m., Aug. 3, 2012. Interment followed at Duffield Cemetery.

A wake service was held at Worley Luginbuel Funeral Home Aug. 2.

Notes of encouragement may be left at www.honoringmemories.com

Services were under the direction of Worley-Luginbuel Funeral Home in Jay, Okla.

MARY LOUISE STREET



OKMULGEE — Mary Louise Street, 64, of Hitchita, Okla., passed away July 16, 2012 after surgery at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

She was born June 8, 1948 to Virgil and Mary (King) Street in Wichita, Kansas where she was raised and attended school.

Shortly after graduating high school, she moved to Hitchita, Okla., to care for her grandfather. In March of this year, she moved to Okmulgee’s Elderly Indian Housing Community.

Mary was preceded in death by her father, Virgil H. Street, mother, Mary Street, and older brother, Victor J. Street. She is survived by her sister, Irene Pohl of Wichita, Kansas; three nieces, one nephew, 12 great-nephews, two great nieces and one great-great niece.

Other survivors include brother-in-law, John Pohl; sister-in-law, Susie Street and a host of other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Grave Creek Baptist Church in Hitchita, Okla., July 20, 2012 with Pastor Mitchell Taylor officiating.

Internment followed at the Grave Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Dominic Villa, Lamont Villa, Joseph Rodriguez, Ron Johnson, Wayne Johnson and John Pohl. Honorary pallbearers were P.J. Smith and Alex Rodriguez.

ROBERT T. WOOD



WEWOKA — Robert “Tom” Wood of Sasakwa, Okla., went to be with his Lord and Savior, June 3, 2012 at his residence in Sasakwa, Okla., at the age of 72.

Robert was born Nov. 9, 1939 in Tahlequah, Okla., to the late Tom (Doxie) and Ollie (Harjo) Wood.

Robert married Joammie Burgess Nov. 4, 2004 in Konawa, Okla., and they made their home in Sasakwa then later moved to Spaulding, Okla. He was a proud member of the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

He worked for OLG and Alford Propane as truck drive for 25 years before retiring. During his earlier years, he drove for Acker’s Metal.

Robert became the deacon of Seminole Indian Baptist Church of Konawa. He was ordained by Revs. Willie Guient and George Harjochee and became pastor March 5, 2011. Robert also served as vice chairman for Seminole Nation Water Board.

Preceding Robert in death are his parents, daughter Olivia Webster, three sisters: Mary Lee Hoag, Louise Earls and Helen Hunt and two brothers George and Billy Scott.

Survivors include his wife Joammie Wood of the home, children, Julie Wood of Oklahoma City, Robert Wood Jr., of Tecumseh, Okla., Steve Wood, Maud, Okla., Wesley Roulston and wife Sherry of Newella, Okla., Theda Pogue and husband Chris of Biloxi, Miss.; 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; sister Hepsey Harjo of Weleetka; a special angel Mattie Pogue and cousin Winn Harjo, a host of other relatives and friends.

A wake service was held June 5 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Revs. Houston Tiger and Willie Quient officiating. A funeral service was held June 7, 2012 at Stout-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Revs. Jimsey Harjo and George Harjochee officiating. Burial was held at Oakwood Cemetery.



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Suicide Prevention Hope Walk set for Sept. 10

Media Release
MCN Behavioral Health

OKMULGEE — National Suicide Prevention Week 2012 is Sept. 9-15.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Program has professional staff trained in the areas of suicide assessment, prevention, and intervention. MCN BHS can offer suicide prevention (QPR) and post-vention



(connect) trainings to agencies, schools, and communities within the jurisdictional boundaries. The Behavioral Health Program can schedule training in these areas free of charge.

MCN Behavioral Health will be hosting a Hope/Remembrance Walk on Sept. 10. The walk will be from 4-6 p.m., at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

Registration will begin at 3:30 p.m. Guest speakers will tell their stories then participants will walk around the pond. A remembrance ceremony will follow.

For more detailed information, please contact Lindsley Harry at 918-224-9307 or Susan Clark at 918-758-1930.

Change a life. Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent



Children. Keepers of our tradition.

Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today. In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call “cuko” (home). Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.

For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918) 732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



ATTN: -MUSCOGEE VETERANS- MOTORCYCLE RIDERS



Situation: Yearly Veterans motorcycle ride is approaching.

Mission: Veteran motorcyclists will dine and watch movie at Admiral Twin Drive-In.

Execution: Veteran motorcyclists and 1 guest riding with veteran will:

1. Assemble at MCN Veterans building (VASO) at 1500 on Friday, 12 Oct 12
2. Group will depart VASO at 1505 and proceed to the restaurant - 5 & Diner, Highway 51 and Memorial, Tulsa, OK.
3. At 1730 group will depart restaurant and proceed to the Admiral Twin Drive-In, off Highway 244, Tulsa, OK.
4. Between 2100 and 2300 group will depart Drive-In theater and travel back to VASO.

Administrative: VASO will pay for dinner and admission to movie for veteran and 1 guest.

1. Veteran must be Muscogee (Creek) citizen
2. Veteran allowed 1 guest and guest must be on motorcycle with veteran.
3. Refreshments at Drive-In theater will be responsibility of veteran.
4. VASO’s company car will be trace vehicle.
5. Veterans must bring their vest; VASO will transport vests in car.
6. Vest must be worn at restaurant and Drive-In theater.

Communication: Muscogee Veterans please call Ken Davis or Shawn Taryole by 1700, 11 Oct 12 to register for the event at phone numbers: (918) 732-7739 or (918) 732-7745.

Social Services Elder AC Program available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The air conditioner program provides window units for enrolled Creek citizens 60 years of age or older who have no air conditioning or existing air conditioning is inadequate.

Those under 60 years of age who suffer from or are otherwise prone to chronic illness are also eligible to apply. Both renters and homeowners may apply. Citizens are responsible for pick up and installation of air conditioners.

- Applicants must be enrolled

Muscogee (Creek) tribal members

- At least one member of the household must be considered as vulnerable:
 - Elder (60 years or older)
 - Medically needy as determined by a qualified health practitioner

Required Documents

- Air Conditioner application (may be completed at office or downloaded from MCN website)
- Citizenship cards for all household members (CDIB cards not accepted)

- If medically needy, a statement from a medical doctor of medical necessity
- Notarized statement from a non-family member that the applicant's home has no air conditioner or existing air conditioner is inadequate
- Additional documents may be required based on individual circumstances.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

School Clothing applications available through Oct. 26

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation School Clothing Program 2012/2013, is now accepting applications until Oct. 26, 2012 at 5 p.m.

This program is open to all Muscogee (Creek) citizen students no matter where they live in the United States.

Call 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979 for an application to be mailed or faxed di-

rectly.

All applications must be returned or mailed to: School Clothing Program, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Please do not fax or e-mail the applications.

For more information, contact the School Clothing Program at 918-549-2473 or toll free at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 2473.

Social Services Energy Assistance Program available

Media Release
MCN Social Services

OKMULGEE — Applications for the MCN Energy Assistance Program are now being processed. Applicants should submit a copy of the following documents required to determine eligibility:

LIHEAP Participants

- Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)
- Citizenship card(s) or CDIB card(s) for all household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate
- Social Security card(s) for all household members
- Income or lack of income

for all household members 18 years or older (check stub, unemployment benefits verification, and food stamp or commodities verification will be accepted)

- Written statement stating: I, ___, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. I have not received assistance for my cooling bill from any other agency, community center, etc., within the past 12 months. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Tribal Energy Participants

- Current electric bill (must be in applicant and/or spouse's name)
- Citizenship card(s) for all

household members; if non-native, include driver's license or birth certificate

- Social Security card(s) for all household members
- Written statement stating: I, ___, authorize Creek Nation Social Services to sign my application on my behalf. Applicant must sign, date, and leave a phone number.

Once the applicant has received an approval letter, he/she will need to bring the approval letter to the office on any Friday in July to pick up their educational material bag.

For questions or additional information contact Social Services at 918-549-2445 or 1-800-482-1979.

Tribal Driveways Program now accepting applications

Media Release
MCN Tribal Driveways Program

OKMULGEE — The Tribal Driveways Program is accepting applications for repair of accessible driveways for property owners who reside within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Applicant must be enrolled with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribe.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located on the Creek Nation Capitol Complex area between the Indian Health Service building and the old Head Start building in Okmulgee, Okla.

The Tribal Driveways Program addresses the needs of our Muscogee (Creek) Nation elders and tribal citizens that require services due to the poor condition of their private drives.

ELIGIBILITY: (Need copies)

1. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizenship card
2. Warranty Deed (in Creek owner's name)
3. Oklahoma Driver's License or ID
4. Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen will be limited to no more than one (1) service every four (4) years

Organization applications are also available for Muscogee (Creek) Nation ceremonial grounds, tribal towns, community centers, churches and when needed, family cemeteries that are within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

For more information or to request an application call 918-732-7651 or 1-800-482-1979.

MOVIE NIGHT!



ATTENTION: MUSCOGEE (CREEK) VETERANS ALL BRANCHES

In Honor of Muscogee Veterans the VASO will be hosting

“MOVIE NIGHT” (Friday, 19 October 2012)

• Showtime - 1900 Hrs.

Location - Veterans Building (MCN Complex)

Movie - “THE LOST BATTALION” (with Rick Schroder)

Drinks - Coke & Diet Coke (Free Of Charge) • Chow - Popcorn (Free Of Charge)

Smoking Lamp is Lit • Price of Admission - FREE (Adults only)

• Muscogee Veterans plus one adult guest

Any questions call Shawn Taryole at the MCN VASO (918) 732-7745



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